

# THE GREAT COMMUNICATOR



## Into the Combat Zone



## Editorial Staff

**Public Affairs  
Officer**  
Lt. Cmdr. Gary Ross

**Assistant Public  
Affairs Officer**  
Ensign Kathryn Kelly

**Photo Officer**  
Lt. Mark Correa



**Executive Officer**  
Capt. William Hart



**Commanding Officer**  
Capt. Terry Kraft



**Command  
Master Chief**  
CMDM (AW/SW)  
Jim Delozier



## Editorial Staff

**Media LCPO**  
PHC (SW/NAC)  
Spike Call

**Managing Editor**  
JOC (SW)  
Donnie Ryan

**Editor**  
JO2 Stephanie Senn

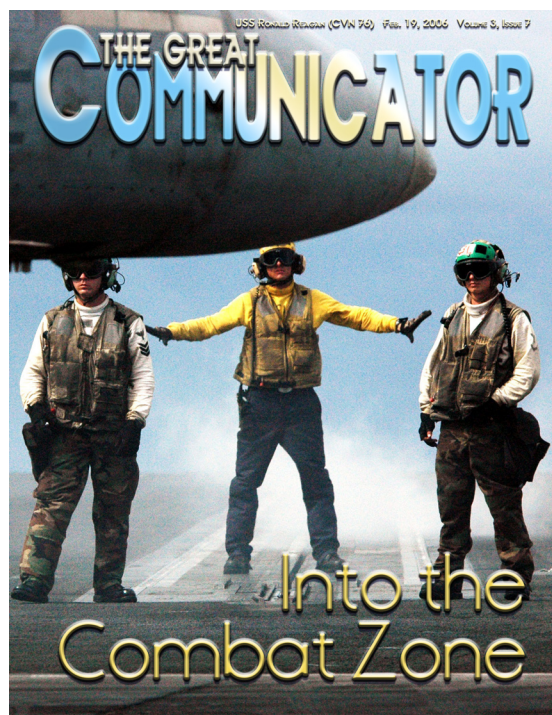
# RRSG enters 5th fleet AOR

A hangar deck director does a final inspection on an aircraft aboard USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) prior to sending it topside for launch. Reagan is currently deployed as part of a routine rotation of U.S. maritime forces in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom, as well as conducting Maritime Security Operations (MSO) in the region. Photo by PHAN (AW) Christine Singh.

See full story on page 3!



# On the front cover



Cover photo by PH3  
(AW) Aaron Burden

Preparing an F/A-18C Hornet for launch from the flight deck is no small task, and only made possible through the coordination of multiple individuals. An aircraft handler easily identified by his yellow shirt, directs the aircraft into position as a pair of squadron troubleshooters wait to perform the final pre-flight checks.

This newspaper is an authorized publication for military members on board USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76). Contents of The Great Communicator are not the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, the Department of Defense or the United States Navy.

## Staff Writers

DM3

Jason Lee

PH3

Sarah Foster

LI3 Paul Ahlers

DMSN

Jack McCann

*Photographic and  
printing support is  
provided by CVN  
76 Steel Horse  
Imaging*



## Table of Contents

RRSG enters fifth fleet	page 3
Linguist club	Page 3
MWR Update	Page 9
Free Mail for RRSG	
Sailors and embarked civilians	Page 9
Around the Fleet	Page 5
Letter to the Editor	
Reader's Choice	
Reel Time	Page 10
InsiderdotCom	
This day in history	Page 4
Just for laughs	Page 8
Photo spread	Page 6 & 7
Sailor of the Day	Page 11

# Reagan Carrier Strike Group enters Fifth Fleet

By JOC (SW) Donnie Ryan

Managing Editor

The Navy's newest aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76), along with embarked Commander, Carrier Strike Group Seven (CCSG 7) and Carrier Air Wing One Four (CVW-14) arrived in the 5th Fleet Area of Responsibility (AOR) Feb. 18 as part of a routine rotation of U.S. maritime forces.

While in the 5th Fleet AOR, Reagan will support Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom as well as conduct Maritime Security Operations (MSO) in the region. More than 6,000 Sailors are currently assigned to the Reagan Carrier Strike Group.

"The Ronald Reagan Strike Group is ready on arrival," said Rear Adm. Michael H. Miller, Commander, Carrier Strike Group Seven.

"Our past nine months of training have been in preparation to support our troops on the ground in Iraq and carry out Maritime Security Operations. It is an honor to serve with them and to once again prove President Reagan's motto "Peace through Strength" really works. With the speed, agility and persistence of the modern carrier strike group, we intend to make a difference in helping to set the conditions for security and stability," said Miller.

MSO help preserve the free and secure use of the world's oceans by legitimate mariners and prevent terrorists from attempting to use the maritime environment as a venue for attack or as a medium to transport personnel, weapons or other material that could support their efforts.

Fifth ... Cont. on page 4



PHAN (AW) Katie Gorby

*The blazing rising sun makes it extremely difficult to see what is happening down the flight deck. Two Sailors must shade their eyes to be able to watch the approaching helicopter.*

## SHIP'S STORE HOURS

### "FLYING DUTCHMAN"

3-148-O-Q

MON-SAT

0915-1400

1530-2000

SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS

1200-1700

### "7-ELEVEN"

02-190-4-Q

MON-SAT

0915-1600

1730-2200

2330-0530

SUNDAYS AND HOLIDAYS

1700-2200

## Linguists aboard Reagan gather for conversation, education

By DM3 Jason Lee

Staff Writer

The Linguists' Club (LC) began with one person's hunger for knowledge and her passion for language.

Master at Arms 2nd Class Lindsay Dilks, founder of the LC, was stationed in Naples Italy where she learned to speak Italian. She became fluent and began interpreting between the local law and military law enforcement.

sent inquiring about those who speak a foreign language. This opened the door to a bilingual world, and the LC was born.

According to Dilks, the first three people to approach her spoke Italian, but with different dialects.

"That was just what I needed," said Dilks. "The best way to learn a language is to look at it like a code to break."

All the members of LC joined for numerous

*"The best way to learn a language is to look at it as a code break."*

*-- Master at Arms 2nd Class Lindsay Dilks*

"After leaving Naples, I would dream in Italian," said Dilks. "But I had no real way to find others who desired to learn and speak Italian."

According to Dilks, she inquired within the command to get a list of personnel that spoke Italian, but due to the privacy act, she was unable to get the information she needed.

In January, an all-hands questionnaire was

reasons.

Aviation Electronic Technician Airman Apprentice Ryan Dale, a member of the LC, states "I wanted to keep up with my French and I thought this would be a great way to do it," said Dale. "It brings back memories."

A variety of languages are available in the Linguists' Club. For more information, contact Dilks via e-mail.

# InsiderdotCom

## Ground Support

[www.americasupportsyou.mil](http://www.americasupportsyou.mil)

Americasupportsyou.mil supports our military men and women and communicates with members of our Armed Forces at home and abroad. Americasupportsyou.mil spotlights what Americans are doing all across the land, encourage others to join the team and allow everyone to tell their stories by giving voice and visibility to their efforts. All events and information is highlighted on the website and allows participants to register and be recognized, share their stories of support with the nation and the troops, and download program materials for distribution and dissemination. Military members can access the website and learn about America's support for our service.

## Defending America

[www.defendamerica.mil](http://www.defendamerica.mil)

DefendAmerica.mil, an official Defense Department website, offers the latest news, photographs, transcripts and other information about current U.S. military operations. It highlights the words and activities of key U.S. Defense Department and coalition officials. Defendamerica.mil also offers daily news reports and photographs by U.S. military photojournalists on the front lines as well as in supporting units. It covers contributions by coalition partners who have joined the United States and highlights a critical partner -- the American public that stands by to support the troops.

## This Day in History

### 1931 Toni Morrison's birthday

Toni Morrison, Nobel Prize-winning novelist, is born this day in 1931 in Lorain, Ohio. Morrison won the Nobel Prize in 1993, becoming the first African-American to win the award.

### 1930 Ninth planet discovered

Pluto, generally the ninth most distant planet from the sun, is discovered at the Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff, Arizona, by astronomer Clyde W. Tombaugh.

## Fifth

*Continued from page 3*

According to Reagan's Commanding Officer Capt. Terry B. Kraft, the ship was made ready for the Western Pacific deployment through the hard work and dedication of crew.

"We have spent months of training preparing us for the types of real-world operations we are now conducting," said Kraft. "I know this particular crew and air wing are ready to carry out any mission that will be asked of us during this deployment. This theater is where the rubber meets the road."

The Ronald Reagan Strike Group is comprised of CVW-14, Destroyer Squadron (DESRON) 7, the nuclear-powered aircraft carrier Reagan, the guided missile cruiser USS Lake Champlain (CG 57), the guided-missile destroyers USS McCampbell (DDG 85) and USS Decatur (DDG 73), the fast combat support ship USS Rainer (T-AOE 7), and Explosives Ordnance Disposal Unit 11, Det. 15.

The squadrons of CVW-14 include the "Redcocks" of Strike Fighter Squadron (VFA) 22, the "Fist of the Fleet" of VFA-25, the "Stingers" of VFA-113, the "Eagles" of VFA-115, the "Black Eagles" of Airborne Early Warning Squadron (VAW) 113, the "Cougars" of Tactical Electronic Warfare Squadron (VAQ) 139, the "Providers" of Carrier Logistics Support (VRC) 30, and the "Black Knights" of Helicopter Anti-Submarine Squadron (HS) 4.

Commander, U.S. 5th Fleet's area of responsibility encompasses about 7.5 million square miles and includes the Arabian Gulf, Red Sea, Gulf of Oman and parts of the Indian Ocean. This expanse, comprised of 25 countries, includes three critical chokepoints at the Suez Canal, the Straits of Hormuz, and the Straits of Bab al Mandeb at the southern tip of Yemen.

Please conserve  
potable water!

## WANTED CAPTIONS



Calling all comedians! So you think you're pretty funny, huh? Come up with an amusing, *appropriate* caption for this photo and send it to [sennsd@cvn76.navy.mil](mailto:sennsd@cvn76.navy.mil) with "Caption Contest" in the subject line. The winning caption will be posted in the next issue.

## LAST ISSUE'S WINNERS

### FIRST

Why did I suddenly get a craving for spicy chicken wings?

Name withheld  
by request

### SECOND

My chief told me to stop this leak, but that was a long time ago.

SKSN Joseph Birchill  
Supply/S-8



### THIRD

This is starting to feel a lot like Brokeback Mountain.

AT2 Rueben Thompson  
AIMD/IM3



## DoD Identifies Navy Casualty

*From U.S.*

*Department of Defense*

**WASHINGTON (NNS)** -- The Department of Defense announced today the death of a Sailor who was supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Petty Officer 3rd Class Nicholas Wilson, 25, of Newark Valley, N.Y., died Feb. 12 as a result of an improvised explosive device in Al Anbar Province, Iraq. He was assigned to Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit Three, based in San Diego, Calif.

## ESG 3 Deploys in Support of Global War on Terrorism

*By PH2 (AW) Regina*

*L. Brown and JO2 Zack Baddorf, USS Peleliu*

*Public Affairs*

**SAN DIEGO (NNS)** -- Nearly 6,000 Sailors and Marines and six ships of Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) 3 departed San Diego Feb. 15 for a six-month deployment in support of the global war on terrorism.

ESG 3 is comprised of Amphibious Squadron (COMPHIBRON) 3, the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable), Peleliu, the

guided-missile frigate USS Reuben James (FFG 57), the guided-missile cruiser USS Port Royal (CG 73), the guided-missile destroyer USS Gonzales (DDG 66), the amphibious transport dock USS Ogden (LPD 5), the dock landing ship USS Germantown (LSD 42), Tactical Air Control Squadron (TACRON) 11, and the "Black Jacks" of Helicopter Sea Combat Squadron (HSC) 21.

## TR Traps Last Tomcat from Combat Mission

*By JO2 Stephen Murphy,*

*USS Theodore Roosevelt*  
*Public Affairs*

**ABOARD USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT (NNS)** -- A chapter in naval aviation history drew to a close Feb. 8 aboard USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) with the last recovery of an F-14 Tomcat from a combat mission.

Piloted by Capt. William G. Sizemore II, commander, Carrier Air Wing (CVW) 8, Fighter Squadron (VF) 213's aircraft 204 was trapped at 12:35 a.m. and marked one of the final stages of the Navy's transition from the F-14 to F/A-18 E/F Super Hornet.

The decision to incorporate the Super

Hornet and decommission the F-14 is mainly due to high amount of maintenance required to keep the Tomcats operational.

## Two Midshipmen Named All-USA College Academic First Team

*By Jenny Erickson,*

*U.S. Naval Academy*

*Public Affairs*

**ANNAPOLIS, Md.**

**(NNS)** -- USA Today honored two U.S. Naval Academy Midshipmen Feb. 15 as members of the 2006 All-USA College Academic First Team.

Midn. 1/C Nicholas Schmitz and Midn. 1/C Paul Angelo were two of 20 undergraduate students recognized nationwide for outstanding academic achievement.

The competition honors students as outstanding full-time undergraduates based on criteria such as grades, academic rigor and leadership. The program looks for students who "not only excel in scholarship, but also extend their intellectual abilities beyond the classroom to benefit society," according to USA Today. Nominees for the award submitted an essay describing their most outstanding intellectual endeavor completed while in college.

## TR Completes U.S. 5th Fleet Mission

*By JO2 Stephen Murphy,*

*Commander,*

*U.S. Naval Forces*

*Central Command/*

*Commander,*

*U.S. 5th Fleet*

**USS THEODORE ROOSEVELT, At Sea (NNS)** -- USS Theodore Roosevelt (CVN 71) (TR) and associated strike group units completed their support of Maritime Security Operations (MSO) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) when the carrier and USS San Jacinto (CG 56) transited the Suez Canal Feb. 15 as they continue their return trip home.

Theodore Roosevelt and CVW-8 launched more than 5,500 sorties, totaling more than 21,000 flight hours in support of OIF and MSO while in theater.

## Defense Department Updates Equipment Reimbursement Policy

*From American Forces*

*Press Service*

**WASHINGTON (NNS)** -- The Defense Department announced Feb. 14 the revision of a memorandum on the policy and procedures

for the reimbursement of privately purchased protective equipment for Operations Noble Eagle, Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom.

The new memo, which was signed Feb. 10 by David S.C. Chu, undersecretary of defense for personnel and readiness, incorporates the original guidance published Oct. 4, 2005, expands the list of reimbursable equipment, and extends the eligible purchase period for reimbursement.

## Tarawa Returning After Successful 13th Western Pacific Deployment

*By PH3 Tony Spiker,*

*USS Tarawa Public Affairs*

**USS TARAWA, At Sea (NNS)** -- Expeditionary Strike Group (ESG) 1 is scheduled to return to Naval Station San Diego, after spending more than half a year deployed to the Western Pacific and Indian Oceans, the Mediterranean, and Persian Gulf.

The three-ship USS Tarawa (LHA 1) strike group deployed to the Western Pacific in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and the global war on terrorism.

AR



# OUND THE THE DECKPLATES



# Just for Laughs

Comics Provided by Military.com

Broadside by Jeff Bacon



Sempertoons by Charles Wolf

1 BOX - \$3.95

INGREDIENTS  
FOR COOKIES - \$6.95

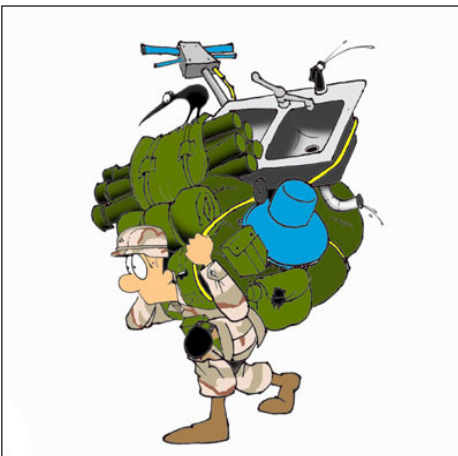
1 PLASTIC SPOON - \$.10

YOUR MARINE ON DEPLOYMENT  
ENJOYING EVERY BITE OF HIS  
30 DAY OLD COOKIE CRUMBS.....



.....PRICELESS!

Private Murphy by Mark Baker



Ricky's Tour by Mike Jones



## Free mail for RRSg Sailors and civilians

By JO2 Stephanie Senn

Editor

The Secretary of Defense approved free mail privileges have kicked in for the Ronald Reagan Strike Group.

What does this mean for the crew of USS Ronald Reagan (CVN 76) and it's embarked air wing? Now that the strike group has entered the Fifth Fleet Area of Responsibility (AOR), all letter and sound-recorded personal correspondence, including video tapes and DVD's, are free to mail.

According to Chief Postal Clerk Mathew Taylor, there are some rules and stipulations that go along with this program.

"The only thing that is free is personal correspondence sent to the US, any possession of the US or any military post office with an APO/FPO address," said Taylor. "This is great for the members participating in the United through Reading program. Now it's free for them to mail the tapes and DVDs home."

The word "free" must be handwritten by the mailer in the upper right hand corner of the envelope where the stamp would normally go. The sender's name, rank and complete military address must be in the upper left corner.

"If you don't address the envelope correctly, it will be returned to the sender," said Taylor.

Free mail cannot be registered, insured or certified. The sender must use plain envelopes, because priority mail envelopes are not authorized for the free mail program.

Another similar program the Reagan Strike Group is now eligible for is the Intra-Theater Delivery Service (IDS). It can be used to send mail and package to other military bases and ships within the same theater at no cost.

The material being sent must not exceed 108 inches in length and girth combined, and must not weigh more than 70 pounds.

To use this service, write "MPS" in the upper right hand corner of the box or envelope where the stamp would normally go. Again, the material is not eligible for any special services i.e. registry, insurance etc.

According to Taylor, these are two completely separate services.

"I don't want people confusing the two," said Taylor. "But if these programs are used properly, I think they'll be a great benefit to the Sailors out here."



By PH1 (AW/SW) John Lill

MWR Committee President

After two amazing port visits in Australia and Singapore, ship's MWR is turning to shipboard events to entertain the masses for the next month while in the 5th Fleet Area of Responsibility. There will be something happening almost every night for crew members to get involved in this underway period.

Sunday Feb. 19th 2100  
Daytona 500  
Hangar Bay (Tentative)

Monday Feb. 20th  
Reagan Idol Sign-Ups Begin  
MWR Ticket Office (Singing)

Tuesday Feb. 21st 2000  
Board Game Night  
Aft Mess Decks

Wednesday Feb. 22nd  
0930-2200  
Super Hero Movie Day  
Foc'sle (Tentative)

Thursday Feb. 23rd  
Dominoes Tournament

Friday Feb. 24th  
Spades Tournament  
Aft Mess Decks

Saturday Feb. 25th  
Movie Night

Monday Feb. 27th 2000  
Free Throw Competition  
Hangar Bay 1 (Tentative)

USS Ronald Reagan's  
Diversity Committee  
presents

A Black History Month  
Celebration

Open Mic Night

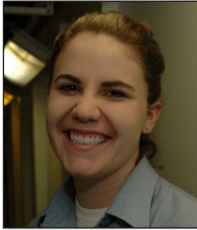
Featuring

Professional, Creative,  
Expressive Talent

2000 tonight on the Aft Mess Decks

# READER'S CHOICE

**How do you  
cope with  
family  
separation?**



**CTR2 (SW/AW)  
Rebecca Livesay**

*"The Sailor phones help me stay in touch."*



**Lt. Cmdr. Gavin Doff**

*"Mostly through email every day."*



**MM3 (SW)  
Chris Barton**

*"I've got good friends, and that makes it easier."*



**YN2 (SW) Eugenia Rhone**

*"It's hard. I try and write letters."*

## Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor,

*I just wanted to tell you how impressed I am with the new format of "The Great Communicator." The newspaper always had good information, but the new magazine format is even better.*

*I'd like to give a great big "shout out" to all the journalists and photographers who work on the newspaper. You guys are awesome and you have the best jobs on the ship.*

*I am going to start sending "The Great Communicator" home to my mother and grandmother. What do I have to do to get my division in the newspaper? Do you think you could print more copies?*

*I guess it's true that the best things in life really are free!*

Respectfully,

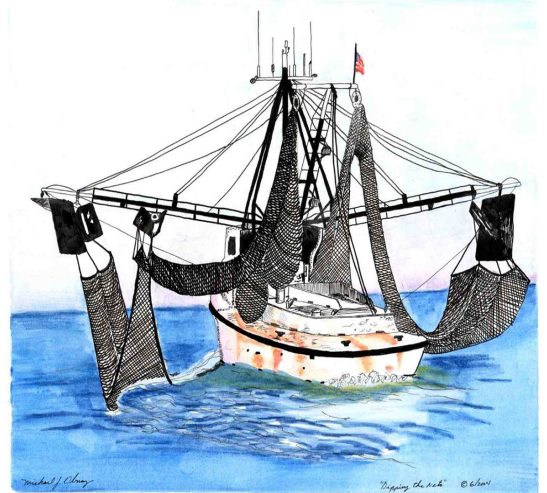
A 'Great Communicator' Reader

Dear Reader,

*Thanks for the kudos. The change was a long time coming, and it took some hard work in the division to see it through to completion, but we think it's worth it.*

The Editor

## Dipping the Nets



**DM1 (SW/AW)  
Michael Obney**



## Indiana Jones: Temple of Doom

ACTING = B  
DIRECTING = B  
STORYLINE = C  
CAMERA WORK = C  
OVERALL = B

### Today's Movies

Ch. 2 - Domino

Ch. 3 - Ladder 49

Ch. 4 - Indian Jones: Temple of Doom

Ch. 5 - Beverly Hillsbillies

### Tomorrow's Movies

Ch. 2 - Prime

Ch. 3 - Hang Em' High

Ch. 4 - Big Daddy

Ch. 5 - Training Day

### by PH3 Sarah Foster

You'd better watch out Indy! They's gone gitcha! Harrison Ford, generally awesome dude, once again rocks out dirty sweaty style to Indian Jones: Temple of Doom. As if the title doesn't speak for itself, guess what happens? More than likely you've already seen this flick back in the day, making it highly possible you'll be right along with the kid from Goonies screaming "Go Indy, Go!" as he swings from his whip and rolls under doors while making out with hot blonde chicks and basically kickin some serious savage butt. Nobody is rippin this guy's heart out, for real.

So he goes to China, abducts earlier mentioned hot blonde chick, plane crashes and ends up in India (coincidence?). After traveling through Jumanji

by elephant and losing their guides on the way, Indy and posse end up at a Sikh's palace where they are fed monkey brains and live snakes. Crazy savages, I'm telling ya.

Tries to get it on with hot blonde chick, forgot what her name was but who cares, but almost gets assassinated in the process and ends up crawling through an insect infested tunnel and almost getting punctured and pummeled.

If this movie was good enough to turn into an event at Disneyland, it's obviously good enough to waste, I mean spend, 118 minutes of your precious off-time watching.

This is one of those movies they shouldn't play on the messdecks because everyone stops eating and starts drooling, staring at the screen and forgetting to blink. Guilty as charged.

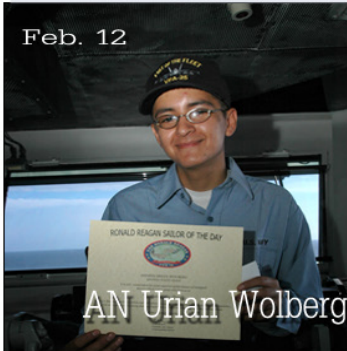


# SD

## SAILOR'S of the DAY

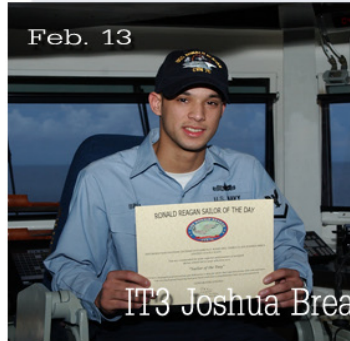


Feb. 12



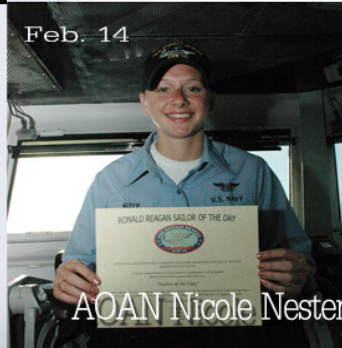
Department: **VFA 25**  
Job Title: **None**  
Where are you from? **El Paso, Texas**  
What inspires you? **My dad**  
Why did you join the Navy? **To start a career**  
Who do you hold responsible for your success? **Myself**  
What piece of advice would you pass on to others? **Follow your dreams**

Feb. 13



Department: **Combat Systems**  
Job Title: **Tech Control Supervisor**  
Where are you from? **Bronx, NY**  
What inspires you? **My peers**  
Why did you join the Navy? **To see the world**  
Who do you hold responsible for your success? **My grandmother**  
What piece of advice would you pass on to others? **Don't let your past prevent you from looking to your future**

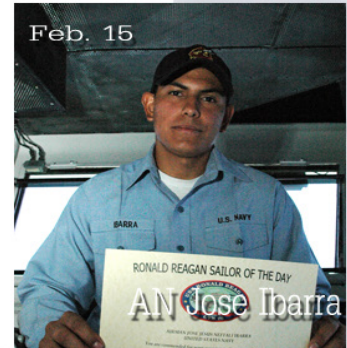
Feb. 14



Department: **Weapons**  
Job Title: **Elevator Tech**  
Where are you from? **Harrisburg, Penn.**  
What inspires you? **My family**  
Why did you join the Navy? **Serve my country**  
Who do you hold responsible for your success? **My family**  
What piece of advice would you pass on to others? **Don't worry about what others think**

Department: **VFA-113**  
Job Title: **Plane Captain**  
Where are you from? **Fallbrook, Calif.**  
What inspires you? **Manual Labor**  
Why did you join the Navy? **Travel, college**  
Who do you hold responsible for your success? **My parents**  
What piece of advice would you pass on to others? **Do what you're told, when you're told**

Feb. 15

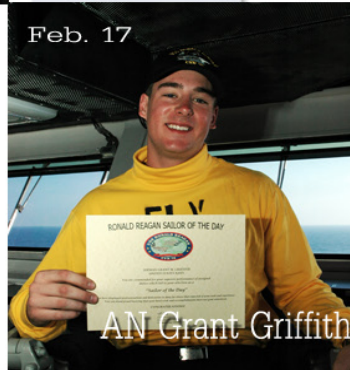


Feb. 16



Department: **Security**  
Job Title: **Armer**  
Where are you from? **Dingmans Ferry, Penn.**  
What inspires you? **My father**  
Why did you join the Navy? **Because of 911**  
Who do you hold responsible for your success? **My parents**  
What piece of advice would you pass on to others? **Keep working hard**

Feb. 17



Department: **Air**  
Job Title: **Aircraft Director**  
Where are you from? **Lynnwood, Wash.**  
What inspires you? **No answer**  
Why did you join the Navy? **Travel, education**  
Who do you hold responsible for your success? **My father**  
What piece of advice would you pass on to others? **No answer**

Feb. 18



Department: **VFA-115**  
Job Title: **None**  
Where are you from? **Riverton, Wyo.**  
What inspires you? **Music**  
Why did you join the Navy? **Job opportunity**  
Who do you hold responsible for your success? **Myself**  
What piece of advice would you pass on to others? **Keep on truckin'**



**Man overboard,  
Man overboard....**

**Headphones can  
keep you from  
hearing important  
messages over the  
1-MC.**

**Keep One Ear Clear  
at all times.**

***“Hey, where did everyone go?”***